

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6609

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EEC

SUBJ: CGIL ADMISSION TO ETUC SEEMS ASSURED

REF: A) PARIS 7125 (NOTAL; B) ROME 3654

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ETUC AND ICFTU SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS NOW CONSIDER THE ADMISSION OF THE ITALIAN CGIL INTO THE ETUC A CERTAINTY. AN OVERWHELMING VOTE IN FAVOR OF CGIL MEMBERSHIP IS EXPECTED AT THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 24 DESPITE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FRENCH FORCE OUVRIERE (FO) MAY WITHDRAW FROM THE ETUC IF THIS OCCURS. NEVERTHELESS, THERE ARE ALSO INDICATIONS THAT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GERMAN DGB, WHO STRONGLY OPPOSE CGIL ADMISSION, ARE ADVOCATING THAT THE DGB THREATEN TO WITHDRAW IN AN EFFORT TO BLOCK CGIL ENTRY. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED LIKELY. END SUMMARY.

2. ICFTU GENERAL SECRETARY KERSTEN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION LEADERS IN BRUSSELS ARE NOW CONVINCED THAT CGIL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC IS PRACTICALLY A FAIT ACCOMPLI. KERSTEN TOLD THE MISSION LABOR ATTACHE ON MARCH 20 THAT OPPOSITION TO THE MOVE WITHIN THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS NOW CONFINED TO THE FO AND DGB. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE GERMANS ARE NOT LIKELY TO ISOLATE THEMSELVES IN A HOPELESS ALIGNMENT WITH THE FRENCH.

3. KERSTEN SAID THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE EXPANDED ETUC SUB-COMMITTEE AND CGIL LEADERS ON APRIL 10 (SEE REFTEL B) WILL BE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. HE BELIEVES THAT DGB PRESIDENT VETTER, AS A MEMBER OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE, WILL PROBABLY DEFINE THE DGB POSITION AT THAT TIME. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE POSITION OF THE ICFTU WHICH HAS OPPOSED CGIL ADMISSION TO THE ETUC, KERSTEN SAID THAT THE CGIL IS NOW WILLING TO DROP ITS ASSOCIATED STATUS WITH THE COMMUNIST WFTU WHICH HAS BEEN THE BASIS FOR ICFTU OPPOSITION. HE ADDED THAT, IN ANY EVENT, THE ETUC WAS AN AUTONOMOUS ORGANIZATION AND THAT ICFTU APPROVAL OF CGIL ENTRY, ALTHOUGH DESIRABLE, WAS NOT A PREREQUISITE.

4. KERSTEN'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION, WHICH IS SHARED BY MOST BRUSSELS BASED INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION LEADERS, IS CONTRARY TO THAT OF SOME DGB REPRESENTATIVES HERE. ACCORDING TO ONE USUALLY RELIABLE DGB SOURCE, THERE ARE SEVERAL TOP DGB LEADERS WHO ARE ADVOCATING THAT THE DGB THREATEN TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ETUC IF THE CGIL IS ADMITTED. HE SAID THE DGB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL DISCUSS THE CGIL ISSUE ON APRIL 2. THE DGB LEADERS ARE APPARENTLY CONCERNED THAT THE ADMISSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF A COMMUNIST-DOMINATED ORGANIZATION INTO THE DEMOCRATIC ETUC WILL ENCOURAGE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS WITHIN THE DGB ITSELF. ANOTHER MISSION DGB SOURCE SAID THAT FO GENERAL SECRETARY BERGERON TOLD DGB LEADERS IN PARIS EARLIER THIS MONTH THAT THE FO WILL WITHDRAW IF THE CGIL IS ADMITTED TO THE ETUC (HOWEVER, ALSO SEE REF A).

5. COMMENT. WHILE WE DO NOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME SHARP TURN OF EVENTS, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THE ONCE BURNING ISSUE OF

CGIL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC MAY NO LONGER BE AN ISSUE AT ALL. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THIS DRASTIC CHANGE, IN AMBIENT, IS THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF, WHICH WAS MENTIONED IN BOTH REFTELS, THAT THIS REPRESENTS THE CULLING OUT OF THE CGIL FROM THE WFTU AND THAT IT COULD ALSO CAUSE A RUPTURE IN CGIL RELATIONS WITH THE FRENCH CGT. OPPONENTS, OF COURSE, DEBUNK SUCH NOTIONS AND CLAIM THE CGIL WILL BE A TROJAN HORSE IN THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT. THE PROOF OF THE ARGUMENT WOULD SEEM AT HAND SINCE THERE IS NOW LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE CGIL WILL BE DENIED ETUC MEMBERSHIP. GREENWALD

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